

## Leonard Webb McDonald

BOUNTIFUL—Leonard Webb McDonald, age 85, passed away March 10, 1999, in Bountiful, Utah.

Leonard was born January 26, 1914, to Giles and Maud Webb McDonald in Hinkley Utah. He married Arola Both from Brigham City, in the Logan LDS Temple, October 26, 1939.

He graduated as Valedictorian from Wasatch High School (Heber City) in 1932. By the time he started at Utah State Agricultural College (now USU) in 1935, Leonard had worked as a farm hand, in a mine, in a timber camp, on highway construction and railroad section crews, and for the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1939, he graduated with honors, in economics. He served as executive secretary of the Utah State Alumni Association; editor of "The Utah Farmer" magazine, Salt Lake City; and business manager of the Utah State Industrial School in Ogden.

In 1952 Leonard was named administrator of the Utah Teachers' Retirement System in Salt Lake City. During the following 24 years, he was instrumental in reorganizing and consolidating various state and local retirement programs into actuarially sound statewide systems, administered under one retirement board. The various retirement funds were also consolidated and their investment statutes updated. His work was recognized nationally and has been credited as a significant factor in the state's high credit rating.

In 1959 he took the lead in organizing the Utah Public Employees' Association and served as its first president. This organization was instrumental in improving the welfare of Utah's public employees with merit service programs, insurance, support for retirement legislation, and improvements in working and service programs.

In 1973, he lead the development of a health and hospital insurance program for retiring and retired public employees to supplement Medicare. Prior to his retirement in 1976, he laid the legislative ground work and initiated the transfer



of the administration of the Utah Public Employees' State Health Insurance Program to the Retirement Board. During Leonard's tenure as retirement administrator, he authored 53 legislative bills which were enacted into law; seven were major pieces of legislation. He was very proud of his office staff. On many occasions he publically recognized their outstanding work and loyal support. In 1973, Leonard was named "Utah Educator of the Year" by Phi Delta Kappa, USU. He served as president of the National Council on Teacher Retirement for the 1976-77 year. In 1977, the newly constructed retirement office building was named the "Leonard W. McDonald Building" in his honor.

In 1981, the Utah Public Employees' Association established an annual "Leonard W. McDonald Award." The Governor appointed him to the USU Institutional Council in 1977 and again in 1981. After retiring, he was a volunteer at the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City.

Leonard enjoyed helping people, reading, writing (both prose and poetry), carpentry work, and listening to Lawrence Welk. He always dreamed of being the editor of a small newspaper.

Leonard is survived by his wife, Arola, three children, Dr. James B. McDonald (Kathleen), president of the Anaheim California Mission; Mary Ann Ebbeler, Bountiful; and Dr. David G. McDonald (Sherrie), Bellevue, NE; nine grandchildren; two great-granddaughters. His surviving sisters and brothers are Lola (Jack) Merrill, Salem, UT; Shirley Ivie, Thermopolis, WY; Virginia Smith, West Valley City; Mildred Richardson, Waurika, OK; Dale (Bobbie), Marlow, OK; and Jay "Buzzie" (Jean), Winnemucca, NV.

Leonard is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Benjamin and Daniel; and his sister, Phyllis Stearnan.

Memorial services will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 1999, at 11 a.m. at the Bountiful 2nd Ward, 650 South 200 East. Friends may call on Monday, March 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Russon Brothers Mortuary, 295 North Main, Bountiful, or from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday at the ward. Interment will follow in the Heber City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions toward a scholarship in Leonard's name may be made to Utah State University Development Office, Utah State University, Logan, UT, 84322.

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